Most of the vehicles used by the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) are designed with covers and hence comply with the Rules.

(c) and (d) No case of negligence has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Environment and Forests—However, as per information provided by MCD, disciplinary action against two officials has been initiated for default and not covering the truck in a proper manner.

Pollution Level in Delhi

2012. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :
SHRI RAJU PARMAR :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhites have been breathing more toxic air due to various factors, including Diwali festival;

(b) if so, what is the level of pollution recorded during the last four months in the National Capital Territory of Delhi; and

(c) what steps are being taken to control pollution, including noise level, in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality at 7 locations in Delhi. The concentration of Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) pollutants are well within the permissible limits. However, the concentration of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) exceeds the permissible limit at some times owing to the gaseous emissions from different sources, including bursting of crackers during Diwali.

(b) The level of pollution recorded during the last four months in the National Capital Territory of Delhi is as under :

Ambient Air quality data in micrograms per cubicmeter

Month	Sulphur dioxide	Nitrogen dioxide	Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter
July, 2001	12	23	62
August, 2001	14	27	66
September, 2001	13	26	75
October, 2001	14	28	129

Note :—National Ambient Air Quality Standard for sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide is 80 micrograms per cubic meter (24 hour average). National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter is 100 micrograms per cubic meter (24 hour average).

(c) The Government has taken various steps to control pollution, including noise pollution in Delhi, which are as follows :

(i) "Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region Delhi" has been constituted for regular monitoring of implementation of action points' enlisted in the 'White Paper on Pollution in Delhi with an Action Plan and Priority Measures approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, *vide* its order dated 28-7-1998.

(ii) Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(iii) All the industries have been directed to install pollution control equipment to comply with the prescribed standards.

(iv) Fifteen Common Effluent Treatment Plants have been approved.

(v) A number of hazardous and polluting industries have been closed down in Delhi.

(vi) All the stone crushers, hot mix plants and brick kilns have been closed down in Delhi.

(vii) Power plants located in Delhi are required to use low ash coal.

(viii) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being forced by the Department of Transport.

(ix) From 1-6-1999 onwards only those private (non-commercial) vehicles which conform to Bharat I norms akin to Euro I emission standards are being registered and with effect from 1-4-2000, Bharat Stage II emission norms have been in forced for non-commercial vehicles (cars).

(x) Only unleaded petrol is being supplied in Delhi w.e.f. 1-9-1998.

(xi) Introduction of CNG run vehicles.

(xii) Ban has been imposed on plying of 15 years and above old commercial vehicles w.e.f. 1-1-1999 and all 15 years and above old commercial/ transport vehicles have been phased out in Delhi. Financial incentives have been provided from the sales tax exemption and interest subisdy to replace 15 years old and above commercial/ transport vehicles with new vehicles.

(xiii) More than 8 years old diesel buses and all pre-1990 autos and taxis plying in Delhi have been taken off the road w.e.f. 1-4-2000.

(xiv) Supply of only pre-mixed oil (Petrol and 2T oil) to two and three wheelers has commenced in Delhi.

(xv) Ultra low sulphur fuel (0.05% maximum sulphur) has been introduced in National Capital Region of Delhi w.e.f. 1-4-2000.

(xvi) Benzene content in petrol has been reduced from about 3 per cent to about 1 per cent in National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(xvii) A multimodel public transport system has been planned.

Steps taken to check the noise pollution in Delhi :

(a) Ambient standards in respect of noise for different categories of areas (residential, commercial, industrial and silence zones) have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(b) Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 have been notified.

(c) Noise limits for stationary diesel sets, fire crackers, portable generator sets and vehicles have been notified.

(d) Anti-cracker campaign has been launched by the Department of Environment, Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi.